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'*A' Birding on a Bronco*'. The present series of more than a hundred drawings, published for the first time in 'Citizen Bird,' fully sustains the artist's reputation. As would be expected in so large a series, a few are indifferent, but by far the greater number are remarkable for beauty, fidelity and power of expression. The pictures alone are worth the price of the book.

The typography and press work are of a high order of excellence, and the publishers are to be congratulated on the exceptional skill shown by their printer in handling difficult text figures. It is refreshing to find a book in the field of popular natural history which so distinctly raises the standard for its class and at the same time is offered for sale at so low a price.

C. H. M.

*The Birds of Colorado*. By W. W. COOKE. Fort Collins, Colorado, State Agricultural College, Agricultural Experiment Station. Bulletin No. 37. Technical Series No. 2. March, 1897. Pp. 1-143.

In view of the geographical situation of Colorado and its topographical features, a recent bulletin by Professor W. W. Cooke, of the State Agricultural College at Fort Collins, is of more than usual interest. It is a well annotated list of all the birds known to occur within the limits of the State. Other features—general discussion, historical résumé, classification of species as regards occurrence, and bibliography—contribute to its value. Considering the opportunity which the region offers, it is somewhat surprising that the author did not also attempt a definition and discussion of the life areas of the State.

The results have been derived largely from a summing up of previously published work, but in addition to this, much valuable new matter is included in the author's own notes and those which other observers placed at his disposal. The list is a large one, the number of species and subspecies attributed to the State being 363, of which 230 are breeders. To those previously recorded, 19 species are added. This makes an enviable total, but that it may still be increased is demonstrated by the outline of yet unworked territory. Colorado will always be an interest-

ing ornithological field, and the present paper cannot fail to be of great service as a basis and stimulus for future work there.

W. H. OSGOOD.

#### SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, 280TH MEETING, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23.

MR. F. A. LUCAS described 'A Dangerous Parasite of the Fur-seal,' stating that it was a nematode of the genus *Uncinaria* found in the sandy portions of the seal rookeries of the Pribilof islands, and caused the death of many young seals. Dr. C. W. Stiles discussed the structure, habits and life history of allied forms.

Dr. C. W. Stiles spoke of 'The International Committee on Zoological Nomenclature,' and of what had been accomplished at the meeting of 1897.

Mr. M. B. Waite presented a communication on 'A New Peach and Plum Disease,' caused by a species of mite attacking and killing the terminal bud of the very young trees. The resulting loss in the value of the trees was considerable, as many thousand trees would be affected in one nursery. A similar disease prevailed in the Japanese quince.

Mr. F. V. Coville spoke of 'The History and Distribution of *Abies shastensis*,' which he had found in a recent trip through the Cascade mountains of Oregon to extend along the range north of the Oregon-California line as far as latitude 43° 35'. It has long been confounded with *Abies nobilis*, which is, however, a tree of more northern distribution.

F. A. LUCAS,  
Secretary.

#### UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SCIENCE CLUB.

AT the meeting of the Club on October 15, 1897, Mr. H. A. Harding, in a paper on 'Bacterial Plant Diseases,' spoke of the first discovery by Professor Burrill, of Illinois, and of the tardiness with which European investigators recognized this work. He showed the extent to which bacterial diseases occur, especially among our garden vegetables. Then followed a discussion of a disease occurring in the cauliflower and cabbage. The bacteria find entrance at the water-pores of the leaf and also through

insect wounds, and the disease causes a blackening of the fibro-vascular bundles, followed by the death of the plant.

Mr. Comstock presented an account of research work in progress at the Washburn Observatory. The meridian circle has been employed for some years by Mr. Flint in determining the relative parallaxes of a list of stars selected with reference to large proper motion. The observations for the determination of nearly 100 parallaxes are completed and the reductions are well advanced, although but a small number of definitive results have yet been reached. In so far as these have been obtained they are very satisfactory in respect both of probable error and agreement with other determinations.

There was also described work done with the 40 cm. equatorial telescope in investigations of stellar color and upon the density of the supposed lunar atmosphere. A provisional result of the latter work is that this density cannot exceed one five-thousandth part of that of the earth's atmosphere at sea level.

WM. S. MARSHALL,  
*Secretary.*

#### SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS.

*The American Journal of Science*, November.—'Geology of Southern Patagonia,' J. B. Hatcher: An account of observations made while collecting vertebrate fossils for Princeton University from May 1, 1896, to June 5, 1897, giving suggestions as to the age and origin of the different sedimentary deposits and the agencies which have determined the present topographical features. 'Some of the large Oysters of Patagonia,' A. E. Ortmann. 'Former Extension of the Appalachians across Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas,' J. C. Branner: Evidence for the theory announced in 1890 regarding the character and extent of the southwestern Appalachian depression. 'Combustion of Organic Substances in the Wet Way,' I. K. Phelps: Extension of the process applied in a previous article to carbon dioxide. 'Some Features of Pre-Glacial Drainage in Michigan,' E. H. Mudge.

*The American Naturalist*, October.—'Edward Drinker Cope, Naturalist—A Chapter in the History of Science' (Illustrated), Theodore

Gill: Address by the retiring President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. 'New Observations on the Origin of the Galapagos Islands, with Remarks on the Geological Age of the Pacific Ocean,' G. Baur: Part II., giving the geographical distribution of different animals in the Pacific and Indo-Pacific Ocean. The number contains a portrait of the late James Ellis Humphrey, one of the associate editors of the journal.

*Journal of Geology*, September-October.—'The Newark System of New Jersey,' H. Kümmel: Based on the Annual Report of the State Geologist for 1896. 'The Topography of California,' Noah Fields Drake: Based on a relief map of California constructed by the author on a scale of 1 inch to 12 miles, and a vertical scale of 1 inch to 12,000 feet. 'A Comparative Study of the lower Cretaceous Formations and Faunas of the United States,' Timothy W. Stanton: A thesis submitted for Ph.D. degree in Columbian University, containing a bibliography filling 14 pages. 'Correlation of the Devonian Faunas in Southern Illinois,' Stuart Weller: Argues that the Devonian faunas in southern Illinois are not related to the Iowan Devonian faunas, but are a western extension of the faunas of the New York province.

#### NEW BOOKS.

*The Ruins and Excavations of Ancient Rome.* RODOLFO LANCIANE. Boston and New York, Houghton, Mifflin & Company. 1897. Pp. xxiv+619. \$4.00.

*Memorials of William Cranch Bond and of his Son George Phillips Bond.* EDWARD S. HOLDEN. San Francisco, C. A. Murdock & Co.; New York, Lemcke & Buechner. 1897. Pp. iv+296.

*Theory of Groups of Finite Order.* W. BURNSIDE. Cambridge, The University Press. New York, The Macmillan Company. 1897. Pp. xvi+388. \$3.75.

*Song Birds and Water Fowls.* H. E. PARK-HURST. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons. 1897. Pp. viii+280. \$1.50.

*Erratum:* In the report of the New York Section of the American Chemical Society, page 672, first column, line 33, for expensive read inexpensive.